

FOOD-PLANTS OF *ODONTOTA DORSALIS* (THUNBERG)
(COLEOPTERA, CHRYSOMELIDAE)

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Food-plants have long been used for descriptive purposes in the phytophagous family Chrysomelidae. In fact, for some groups, the food-plant is of taxonomic importance equal to morphological features (Brown 1945). The food-plant of the hispine chrysomelid *Odontota dorsalis* (Thunberg) is usually considered to be black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). However, Butte (1968) presents a review of the biology of *O. dorsalis*, listing the following as food-plants: black locust; white oak; elm; beech; birch; hawthorn; apple; and soybeans. Thus, *O. dorsalis* is not monophagous.

Eleven specimens of this beetle were collected on rhododendron at the Peaks of Otter, Bedford Co., VA, 18-VII-1975. No evidence of mining was observed, but the number of specimens and the paucity of nearby locust trees lead to the conclusion that this incidence was more than coincidental. This observation is offered to increase our knowledge of the natural history of this beetle. Clearly, more effort toward elucidation of the food plants of *O. dorsalis* and other Hispinae is needed.

REFERENCES

- BROWN, W. J. 1945. Food-plants and distribution of the species of *Calligrapha* in Canada, with descriptions of new species (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae). Can. Ent. 77:117-133.
- BUTTE, J. G. 1968. The revision of the Tribe Chalepini of America north of Mexico. III. Genus *Odontota* Chevrolat (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae). Coleop. Bull. 22:101-124.

